

## Message Text

SECRET

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ORIGIN EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 PRS-01  
CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00  
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO USDEL SECRETARY PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 181719 TOSEC 080051

FOR UNDERSECRETARY HABIB FROM HOLBROOKE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS, PLOS, KS, KN, US

SUBJECT: NORTH KOREAN PROCLAMATION OF MILITARY SEA  
BOUNDARY

1. ON AUGUST 1, WHEN NORTH KOREA'S PREVIOUSLY PROCLAIMED ECONOMIC ZONE CAME INTO EFFECT, THE NORTH ALSO ANNOUNCED THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A MILITARY SEA BOUNDARY "TO RELIABLY SAFEGUARD THE ZONE" AND DEFEND MILITARILY THE NATIONAL INTERESTS AND SOVEREIGNTY OF THE COUNTRY. THE MILITARY BOUNDARY IS COTERMINOUS WITH THE ECONOMIC ZONE IN THE WEST (ALBEIT CONSIDERABLY LESS THAN 200 MILES DUE TO EQUIDISTANT LINE WITH CHINA) AND WILL EXTEND FIFTY MILES SEAWARD OF THE 12-MILE TERRITORIAL SEA ON THE EAST. (NOTE: THIS ROUGHLY BALANCES THE COVERAGE OF THE MILITARY ZONE ON BOTH SIDES IN PRACTICE.)

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2. THE ANNOUNCEMENT STATED THAT FOREIGN MILITARY VESSELS AND AIRCRAFT ARE PROHIBITED FROM THE AREA WITHIN THE MILITARY SEA BOUNDARY AND CIVILIAN SHIPS AND PLANES MAY ENTER ONLY WITH PRIOR SPECIFIC APPROVAL.

3. WHILE THE NORTH KOREAN ASSERTION OF ATTRIBUTES OF SOVEREIGNTY OVER A WIDE SEA AREA IS TOTALLY UNACCEPTABLE,

WE DO NOT BELIEVE IT WAS INTENDED SPECIFICALLY AS A PROVOCATIVE MOVE. WE HAVE INFORMED NORTH AT PANMUNJOM THAT WE FIND THE UNILATERAL ANNOUNCEMENT UNACCEPTABLE, AND THAT IT DOES NOT AFFECT THE CONTINUING RIGHTS OF THE UN COMMAND AND THE UNITED STATES UNDER THE ARMISTICE AGREEMENT. IN RESPONSE TO VERY ACTIVE PRESS INQUIRIES WE HAVE IN LOW KEY FASHION REPLIED WITH REAFFIRMATION OF OUR CONTINUING RIGHTS UNDER ARMISTICE AGREEMENT, AND THE STANDARD USG POSITION ON NON-RECOGNITION OF UNILATERAL DECLARATIONS AFFECTING TRANSIT ON THE HIGH SEAS.

4. ROKG HAS TAKEN STRONG STANCE AGAINST THE NORTH KOREAN ANNOUNCEMENT AND IN LINE WITH EARLIER STATEMENTS ON THE ECONOMIC ZONE HAS STATED THAT THE ROKG WILL NOT RECOGNIZE THE MILITARY BOUNDARY.

5. WITH OUR CONCURRENCE, NORMAL RESUPPLY FERRY PROCEEDED TO NORTHWEST ISLANDS ON SCHEDULE AUGUST 2. THERE WAS NO INCIDENT, ALTHOUGH, CONTRARY TO OUR URGING THAT ATMOSPHERE OF NORMALITY BE PRESERVED, ROKG VISIBLY BEEFED UP MILITARY ESCORT AND TRANSPORTED CONSPICUOUSLY LARGE PASSENGER CONTINGENT.

6. PRESS HAVE TRIED TO INTERPRET AN AIR OF CONFRONTATION AND "TESTING" IN THIS RESUPPLY TRIP, BUT WE HAVE CONSISTENTLY TAKEN LINE THAT NOTHING NEW HAS BEEN ADDED INsofar  
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AS NORTHWEST ISLANDS ARE CONCERNED SINCE THEY ALREADY FELL WITHIN THE NORTH'S PREVIOUSLY DECLARED TWELVE-MILE ZONE AND THE NEW MILITARY SEA DECLARATION DID NOT CHANGE ANYTHING.

7. ALTHOUGH IT APPEARS ROKG WOULD HAVE PREFERRED STRONGER REACTION ON OUR PART, AND PARTICULARLY SOME SPECIFIC REAFFIRMATION OF DEFENSE OF NORTHWEST ISLANDS, WE ARE MAINTAINING OUR QUIET EMPHASIS ON NORMALITY AND THE CONTINUATION OF OUR RIGHTS UNDER THE ARMISTICE AND INTERNATIONAL LAW.

8. OTHER OPERATIONS HAVE NOT BEEN AFFECTED AND WE DO NOT FORESEE A SCENARIO HEADING TOWARD ESCALATION OR CONFRONTATION. CHRISTOPHER

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## Message Attributes

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